(d) the details of new VIPs added to the list for such security since the present Government entered office?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. The security categoriesation of all protectees in Delhi has been reviewed.

(b) and (c) The security of protectees in reviewed periodically based on latest threat perception in each case and necessary changes in security are made as warranted. This is a continuing process and in the last such reveiw security of 111 persons includeing political VIPs was withdrawn. In the interest of security of the protcctd persons, the list of protected persons and the level of protection provided to them is not released.

(d) After the present Govt, entered office, 34 political VIPs including Ministers have been added to the list of protectees.

Bodo Militancy

2319. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unlawful activities of militants have been stepped up causing extensive damage to life and property and that the road links between the North East and the country have been cut off;

(b) if so, the details of the estimated loss of propcty caused by the Bodo militants and the number of civilians and security personnel killed in Bodo violence; so far; and

(c) what precise measures have been taken by Government to contain the activities of Bodo militants and to bring normalcy in the State?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) In the first week of June 1998, certain railway bridges and road bridges were damaged by Bodo militants. Emergent repairs were carried out and the road and rail links were restored.

(b) According to available information, the number of persons killed by Bodo violence from 1.1.98 to 1.7.98 is as follows:— Civilians: 142
Security personnel: 8
ethnic violence: 56
Details of estimated loss of property are not maintained.

(c) Various steps have been taken to bring the deteriorating law and order situation in the Bodo areas of Assam under control. Additional units of para military forces and army have been inducted in affected areas. Security of rail and road bridges, rail tracks have been tightened and intensive patrolling and static guard arrangements have been made both on the North and South Bank of Brahmaputra.

About 30 persons connected with the blasts have been arrested. Regular review both at Central and State Government level is being conducted. 18 relief camps have been opened for providing shelter to those displaced in the ethnic violence.

Central Government has also restarted the process of dialogue with moderate Bodo groups to resolve the various outstanding issues so that normalcy is restored.

Arrest of Veerappan

2320. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many associates of Veerappan, the notirous sandalwood smuggler, have surrendered till date and the details thereof; and

(b) the strategy drawn-up to arrest Veerappan?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADWANI): (a) As per available information a total of 4 persons have surrendered during the current year before the Chief of Special Task Force at Chennai. Three of them surrendered on April 4 and another on April 24, 1998.